

## RECTOR PENNELL'S SECRET.

DISCLOSURES THAT WERE MADE AFTER THIRTY-NINE YEARS.

The story of a boy whose existence is believed to have been concealed from his master's friends—Death—A love that Daniel Pennell had conceived of the plot of romance.

The present settlement of the suit of Robert C. Pennell against the Rev. George C. Pennell, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church of Newark, who was claimed by the plaintiff as his father, was influenced by the disclosure of all the facts which the claimant's counsel, Mr. Henry Palmer, had ascertained. The suit against Mr. Pennell was nominally to recover the \$244 claimed to be due for the board of the plaintiff from June 25, 1861, to June 21, 1870, furnished by Rutherford Meigs of 63 Lorimer street, Newark. His real object was to establish the identity of the plaintiff, so that he might secure some property which was bequeathed by his mother to the Syracuse Home Association. This has been accomplished. The claimant's story, in brief, was that the Rev. George C. Pennell and his cousin, Miss Mary Hannah Schreppel of Schenectady, N. Y., were clandestinely married on April 16, 1852, in Brooklyn, that the marriage was kept secret until 1862, and was at once taken away by Dr. Pennell, his grandfather, and that his mother, believing him to be dead, returned to her home and died, until her death, under her maiden name, being ignorant of the existence of her child, she gave her property to charity.

Before she died she confided the story of her clandestine marriage to ex-Attorney-General Daniel Pratt, who, in July, 1875, wrote to the claimant's counsel about young Pennell:

"The son of one of my law friends is believed to have been born in Newark. Further, it is not proven for me to say that the plot of no romance ever took place in the actual history of that case taken from the commencement to the present time. The bearings and conduct of a young woman by her husband, however, are in almost anything we read of the various stories in novels of the day. I mention no names in the reason that I received the whole story from her own lips, and, of course, I have no means of verifying except that the marriage can be proved to be recent, that she is all aground. The man's name, however, is now known to me, and his abandonment, all were entirely natural to her family until after her death. She was employed in them and her scenes in this part of the country to be a single woman, and was known only by her name."

The ex-Attorney-General has taken much interest in young Pennell, and has been influential in restoring to him some property to which he would have fallen heir had his existence been concealed. The suit against the Rev. Mr. Pennell, in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, was held in abeyance because of a second suit which was begun in the Supreme Court in Oswego County against all the relatives of the plaintiff on his mother's side to recover possession of lands which Mary Hannah Schreppel had owned in the Syracuse Home Association, upon whom the claimant, ex-Attorney-General Pratt, not to retain the property bequeathed to him by Miss Schreppel if it could not be legally proven that the claimant was legitimate.

Mr. Henry Palmer, the counsel for Pennell, in Brooklyn, has submitted to the claimant's counsel, and to the Syracuse Home Association to examine the proofs offered, the following facts, now published for the first time: He said that the Rev. George C. Pennell, Dr. Peter H. Hartshorne, and the Rev. George C. Pennell, while they were passing under the name of Crosby, at that time, in New York, were engaged in the practice of law, and had been consulting with Mr. Omstead on the subject. "We know you, and I, and have no confidence in you, and I don't know what you will do."

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